

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 19541 031554Z

14

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-07 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 IO-13 /093 W

----- 111065

R 031521Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8404

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 19541

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, MU, IR, YS

SUBJECT: IRANIAN PLANE INCIDENT AND PDRY-OMANI RELATIONS

1. IN CONVERSATION ON SOUTHERN ARABIAN SITUATION, KEALY OF FCO MIDDLE EAST DEPARTMENT TOLD EMBOFF AND NEA/ARP VISITOR GERLACH THAT IRANIAN PLANE HAD BEEN SHOT DOWN "BY PURE LUCK" BY MACHINE GUN FIRE. HE DID NOT BELIEVE INCIDENT HAD BEEN ENGINEERED BY PDRY TO RUIN GULF FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE. HE AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT OMANIS HAD PROBABLY NOT BEEN FOREWARNED ABOUT FLIGHT AND THAT THEREFORE INCIDENT COULD COMPLICATE OMANI-IRANIAN RELATIONS, WHICH, KEALY OBSERVED RATHER VAGUELY, WERE SHOWING SOME SIGNS OF STRAIN.

2. KEALY ALSO SAID DHOFAR, WHILE GENERALLY QUIET, WAS STILL EXPERIENCING ONE "INCIDENT" A DAY SUCH AS A SHOT BEING FIRED OR A MINE GOING OFF. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT OMANIS SEEMED VERY MUCH IN CONTROL OF SITUATION WITHOUT DIRECT IRANIAN ASSISTANCE.

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ARMSTRONG

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE, TERRORISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LONDON19541
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760448-1182
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761275/aaaacngw.tel
Line Count: 61
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 MAY 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <13 SEP 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IRANIAN PLANE INCIDENT AND PDRY-OMANI RE- LATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, MU, IR, YS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006